

Valued by God – Our Relationship with a God Whom We Can Draw Near |

7/8/18

- Introduction
 - We are continuing our study on how we are valued by God.
 - Last week we looked at what it means to be made in the image of God, which is a reflection of His Holy character.
 - This week we will examine what it means to have a relationship with a God that we can approach, that we can draw near to. He is one that lives within us and is always there.
- We can see how valuable we are to God in that He allows us to draw near to Him.
 - **As we have already previously established God is not a distant God who does not care about what goes on in our lives, but a God who is intimately involved in all aspects of our lives.**
 - Jeremiah 23:23
 - “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?”
 - God does not simply look down upon the world with indifference, but He knows each of us better than we know ourselves.
 - Our God is one who is “at hand” He is present and not distant.
 - **Not only is God present, but He allows and desires for us to draw near to Him.**
 - Even though God is far beyond us, He still desires a personal relationship with us.
 - And with this relationship He wants us to draw near to Him.
 - Hebrews 4:16
 - “Let us then **with confidence draw near to the throne of grace**, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - Ephesians 3:11-12
 - “This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom **we have boldness and access with confidence** through our faith in him.”
 - James 4:8a
 - “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you...”
 - This concept of being able to come to God is foreign in other religions.
 - No other religion see’s their “god” as a personal being. Especially one that wants us to come to Him.
 - For a “god” to allow and desire this relationship would be like a **medieval King** allowing and wanting their subjects to come see him at any time, this of course would be unheard of.
 - For one to enter into the throne room of King Ahasuerus (Esther) meant death if he did not raise his scepter.
 - Even in our world today if someone is “important” then getting access is difficult.
 - If someone is a powerful CEO, hold high political office or even a celebrity they are not approachable.
 - **But we matter so much to God that we can approach Him on His throne, we can call out to Him regardless of the “why”.**
 - God wants a desires **that close personal relationship** of a loving father, not that of an **unapproachable earthly king**.
 - God who is more important than anyone else on the Earth is approachable and desires us to come to Him.

- **This gives us great comfort knowing that at any point in time, not matter what the situation we can always go to God, we can always draw near to Him.**
 - If things are good, or things are bad God will always allow us to come to Him to receive His comfort and grace.
 - **We can see this portrayed in Jesus with how He treated others.**
 - Jesus always allowed the people to come to Him, He did not put Himself on a throne requiring armed guards nor require an appointment.
 - Jesus freely allowed the people to come to Him.
 - This is also portrayed in how Jesus desired for the children to come to Him.
 - Matthew 19:13-14
 - “Then children were brought to him, that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”
 - **What does knowing that we can freely draw near to God mean to you?**
 - **How does this truth reflect our value to Him?**
- We can see how valuable we are to God because He is always there for us.
 - To expand upon our ability to “draw near to the throne of grace”, we are also comforted knowing that God will ALWAYS be there for us.
 - Joshua 1:9
 - “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, **for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**”
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”
 - Isaiah 41:10 (This passage is specifically addressed to the Israelites, but the concept applies to everyone as is seen in the rest of the Scriptures.)
 - “fear not, **for I am with you**; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
 - Deuteronomy 31:8
 - “It is the LORD who goes before you. **He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you.** Do not fear or be dismayed.”
 - **We do not have to make an appointment with God, He does not have to make time in His busy schedule He is always there for us.**
 - No matter what our circumstances in life may bring, God is there to walk with us every step of the way.
 - **Even in our dark times when we are suffering or grieving, we find that God is there through everything.**
 - Psalms 23:4
 - “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, **for you are with me**; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
 - These are the times where we truly must remember that God is there, to not ignore His presence.
 - For it is these times that we need Him above all others.
 - **What does God’s everlasting presence in your life mean to you?**
 - **How does this show our value to Him?**

- We can see how valuable we are to God because His Spirit dwells within us.
 - **Not only are we His children, not only are we made in His image, not only do we have permanent everlasting access to the Father, but He also sent His Spirit to live within us.**
 - The moment we have true saving faith God bestows us with His Holy Spirit
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”
 - This **speaks to volumes** to what God thinks of us, that **He would impart a piece of Himself** (one that is Holy, righteous and perfect) to live within us.
 - **We cannot get any closer than this to God, this is why we always have access to Him, because He lives within us.**
 - John 14:23
 - “Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him.**”
 - John 14:16-17
 - “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, **to be with you forever**, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.**”
 - Ephesians 3:16-17a
 - “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...**”
 - This is why God will never leave us or forsake us, He is always present living within our hearts forever.
 - **Scripture even tells us that we are a temple for the Holy Spirit**
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”
 - This truth also tells us how we should treat ourselves, that if it is God’ temple then we should respect and take care of it.
 - God chose to take up residence within us, let us not defile it with our sins and transgressions.
 - Knowing that we have the Spirit living within us we should always live our lives to reflect this truth.
 - **We should always live godly lives in obedience to Him, so that we can be a witness to others of what it means to be saved and to know Christ.**
 - **What does it mean to you to know that you have God’s Spirit living within you?**
 - **What does this tell you about your relationship and value to Him?**
- We can see how valuable we are to God because of His Forgiveness
 - Our value can be seen because of God’s forgiveness of our sins.
 - **Because of our transgressions against God, because of our sins we deserve death. Yet he has shown us mercy and forgiveness.**
 - We have forgiveness that was given to us through the cross for our sins that allows us to be saved. But we also have continued forgiveness even after we become Christians.
 - God values us so much that he will forgive one who truly repents of their sins.
 - He does not give us 3 strikes and we are out, but instead loves us enough to always forgive a truly repentant sinner.
 - 1 John 1:9

- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- Ephesians 1:7
 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace,”
- Matthew 26:28
 - “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins.**”
- Acts 3:19
 - “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your **sins ay be blotted out,**”
- Daniel 9:9
 - “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;
- We can see our value to God because He desires for us to live and to spend an eternity with Him. He will never push us away but will always forgive us.
- If God did not see us as having any value to Him, He most certainly would not allow our sins to be forgiven. He could easily let us have the condemnation and punishment that we deserve.
- Yet we do have value and God loves us.
- **What does God’s forgiveness mean to you?**
- **How does His forgiveness show that we are valuable to Him?**